

**Author:** Tom Beaver  
**Category:** Beaver Memos  
**Date:** May 29, 2016

**Artifacts of John Fetzer's Trips  
to Camp Chesterfield, 1962-74  
(August 27, 2015, revised May 29, 2016)**

In an interview John Fetzer did on February 9, 1984 with Thinnies and Averitt in preparation for a possible biography (which wasn't written), he was asked a few questions about his visits to the Indiana Spiritualist camp, Camp Chesterfield ... as follows:

Question: What got you started? When did you first go there? Why?

John: Just out of innate curiosity. Heard about it. Everybody in Indiana had heard about it. It was probably in the 40s but I'm not sure. ... It seems to me that Babe Ruth did show up one time.

Question: Were you ever afraid?

John: No ... It was very exciting, of course. But I was never afraid.

Question: I believe you said you saw Abraham Lincoln materialize and give a speech.

John: Yeah.

Question: What did he talk about?

John: I don't remember now ... they were kind of philosophical speeches as I recall.

And John went on to add,

John: Camp Chesterfield had a book shop ... I think that every time I went down there I would buy three or four books ...

In another Thinnies and Averitt interview, John said he went to Camp Chesterfield as early as 1934:

John told me (Tom Beaver) that he used the two mediums that he trusted at Camp Chesterfield to help him with his genealogy work in the 1960s and early 1970s. He talked about this on a day trip he and I once took to visit some of his ancestors' graves in Indiana. He told me that when he'd hit a dead end in his genealogy research, he'd go to these mediums and they'd point to the next cemetery to go to, in order to find the "next ancestor back." He told me that his trusted Chesterfield mediums never failed him in this regard. As we go through this report, it will be evident just which mediums John used, and some of the specific ways he used them.

In the John Fetzer archives, we have found artifacts that John brought back from Camp Chesterfield—namely, "spirit photos" and "cards." We have been informed at Camp Chesterfield that the one person who did "spirit photography" was medium Charlie Swann. John wrote dates on the backs of these artifacts. From these dates we know that John went down there nearly yearly for a least a day, in August of the years 1962-1974.

Camp Chesterfield has a hotel on site, and the hotel registries have been digitized and saved online for the period from 1910 through 1965. Looking through the registries on the specific dates we have artifacts for, we found John's signature ("John E. Fetzter") in the registry in 1962, 1963 and 1964.

What follows in this report are photographs of the artifacts, and of John's signatures in the hotel registry. In the report we go through things chronologically.

August 14-15, 1962: we have a hotel registry signature by John. We also have "Spirit notes" from his deceased mother, and from one of his guides, "Master Teacher," as well as from an unnamed American Indian.

### Camp Chesterfield hotel ledger, 1961-1965

page 143

View Description

View Image & Text

Print

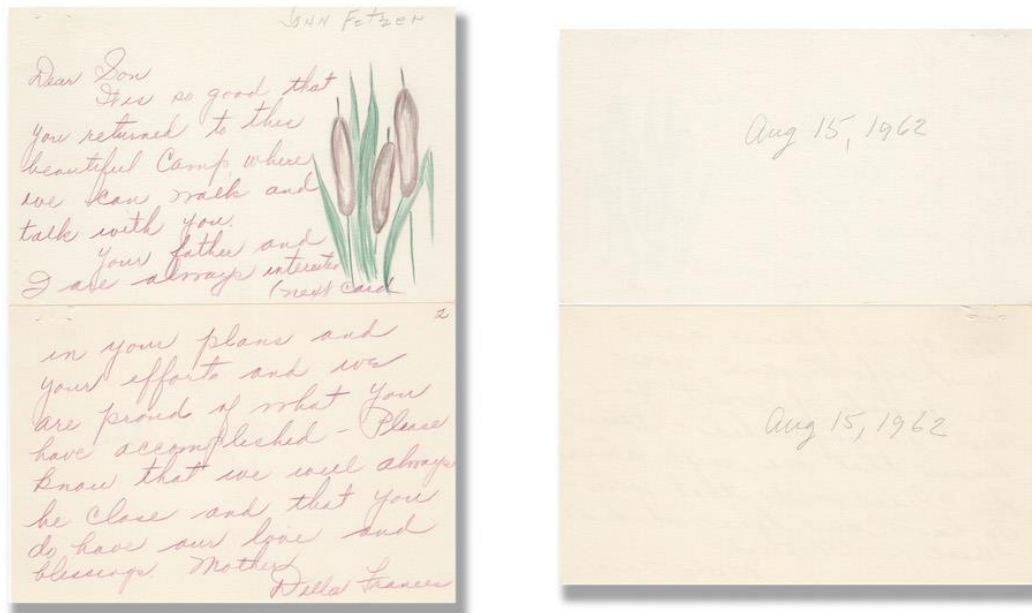
Image Text Text Search...

August 14

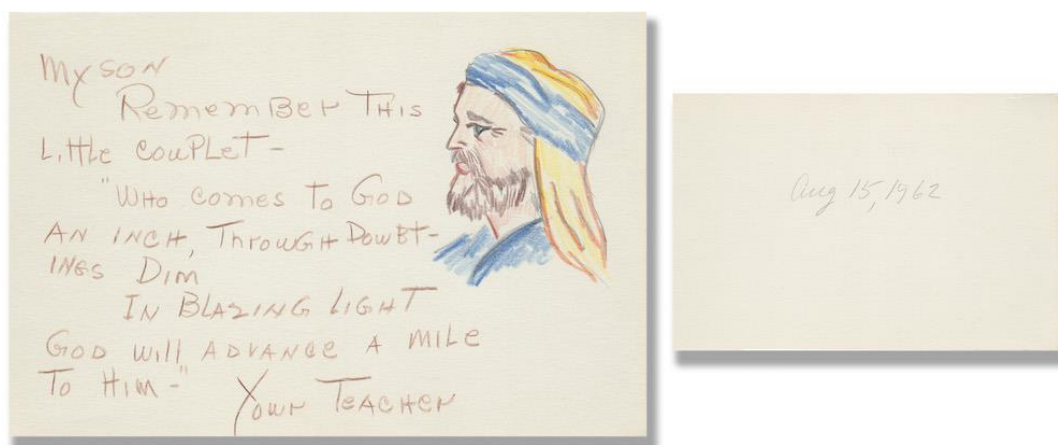
SF 28	Chas. A. Aquier	Dayton O.	5 00
SF 71	Warren J. Blais	Stambridge	14 00
127	Melba Jordan	Arrowood, Ill.	5 00
SF 98	Stepha Shipper	Charleston, Ill.	3 00
SF 97	Chris Thompson	Charleston, Ill.	10 00
	Mrs. Ed. Gabe	Charleston, Ill.	
SF 98	Loogan J. Smith	Charleston, Ill.	20 00
	Mrs. Walter Keane	Seattle, Wash.	
146	Mr. John & Helen Stuchler	Alima, Ohio	5 00
	Mrs. Ray M. Bude	Spencer, Ohio	
118	Mrs. Anna Shaggett	Lima, Ohio	7 00
129	Mr. & Mrs. Emory Williams	Madison, Mich.	10 00
148	Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Swafford	Madison, Mich.	10 00
120	John E. Fetzter	Kalamazoo, Michigan	10 00

August 15, 1962: front and back of a "Spirit note" (via medium Lillian Dee Johnson) from John's deceased mother Della (who died in 1958). Note that the messages on all of these cards are what could be called "bland" in nature, which is what we ourselves heard from a medium a 2015

séance in which we participated. Still, John kept going back to Camp Chesterfield because the contact with his family was important to him. In addition, the fact that his mother mentions below that John was “coming back” to the camp indicates that this was not his first visit.



August 15, 1962: note from his Master-Teacher (front and back). Note: this teacher was evidently presented to John as one of his guides. John makes a full list of his “5 guides” in 1964 (presented later in the report).



August 15, 1962: Spirit note to John (front and back) from an American Indian.



August 23-24, 1963: we have a hotel registry signature, notes (via Lillian Dee Johnson) from his deceased brother, Walter, and from his mother. In addition, we have notes from two more of his Spirit guides, “Dr. Fyfe” and Chief Thundercloud.

August 23, 1963: Hotel Registry—John’s signature is near the bottom of the photo.

page 288

288

August 23.


Elly 50	Virginia O. Loman	Chicago Ill.	2.50
Elly 51	Robert R. McKay	Chicago Ill.	2.25
Elly 52	Betha Garbano	Hillside Ill.	32.50
Elly 54	Anna Korman	Bannockburn Ill.	32.50
Elly 55	Edna M. Kibula	Bannockburn Ill.	12.50
Elly 56	Opella Hamilton	Hamden Conn.	10.00
Elly 57	James B. Gage	South Canada	10.00
Elly 58	Miss Mrs. H. A. Miller	South Canada	10.00
Elly 59	Miss Edith Korman	Hamden Conn.	1.00
Elly 60	Mr. & Mrs. Roy Miller	Hamden Conn.	8.00
Elly 61	John S. Kelley	Salado, O.	2.50
Elly 62	Dr. Carl E. Kelley	Salado, O.	5.00
Elly 63	Edna M. Kibula	Hamden Conn.	5.00
Elly 64	Edna M. Kibula	Hamden Conn.	13.00
Elly 65	Betty Blauvelt	Cleveland, Ohio	Page 200
Elly 66	Holmes Meyer	Page 300	
Elly 67	Dr. W. L. Larkin	West Plains Mo.	7.50
Elly 68	Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Korman	Salado, O.	Page 297
Elly 69	Mr. & Mrs. Russell Korman	Salado, O.	6.00
Elly 70	Anna E. Korman	Salado, O.	5.00
Elly 71	Annell E. Korman	Salado, O.	8.00
Elly 72	Annell E. Korman	Salado, O.	5.00
Elly 73	Margaret Lipp	Salado, O.	10.00
Elly 74	John P. Lipp	Salado, O.	5.00
Elly 75	William Lipp	Salado, O.	18.50
Elly 76	Annell E. Korman	Salado, O.	8.00
Elly 77	Annell E. Korman	Salado, O.	12.00
Elly 78	Annell E. Korman	Salado, O.	10.00
Elly 79	Annell E. Korman	Salado, O.	2.50
Elly 80	Annell E. Korman	Salado, O.	2.50

August 24, 1963: A Spirit note to John (via Lillian Dee Johnson) from his deceased brother Walter.

JOHN Fetzer

DEAR BOY

WHEN YOU WANT  
TO GO FISHING, CALL  
ON ME AND I  
WILL COME WITH YOU  
TO SHOW YOU WHERE  
(NEXT CARD)




ALL THE BIG ONES BITE<sup>2</sup>  
GLAD YOU'RE HERE  
AND YOU KNOW WE'LL BE  
WITH YOU ALL THE WAY -  
LOVE FROM ALL THE  
FAMILY  
Brother  
Walter

August 24, 1963: there are Spirit notes "on the back" from his brother Walter and from his mother; on the front is a note from another of his Spirit guides, "Dr. Fyfe."

JOHN E FETZER

MY CHILD

REMEMBER  
THAT TEMPERAMENT  
IS TEMPER THAT IS  
TOO OLD TO SPANK  
(over) DR. FYFE

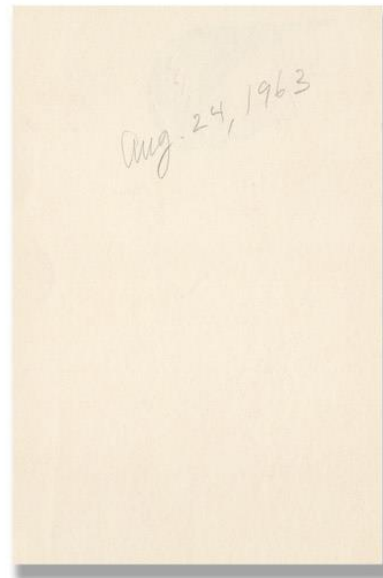
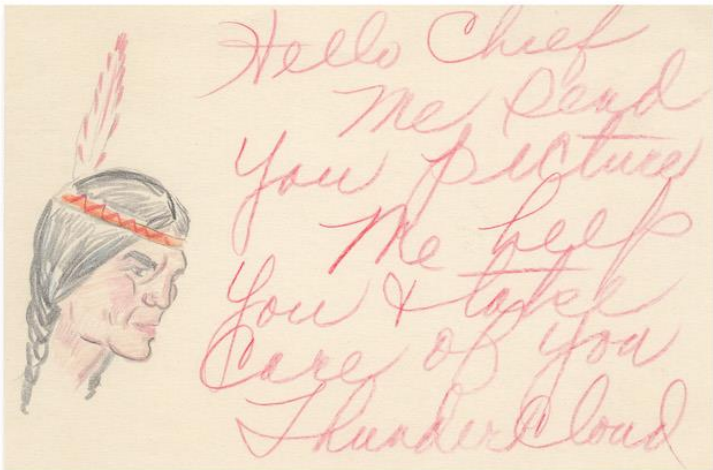


Much love from  
your mother  
Della Frances Fetzer Fyfe  
Aug. 24, 1963

Still fishing  
H. Fyfe  
in the morning  
Walter

August 24, 1963: A Spirit note (front and back) from another of John's guides, Chief Thundercloud.





July 31-August 1, 1964: We have John's hotel registry signature; notes (via Lillian Dee Johnson) from two more of his Spirit guides (Running Red Fox who John heard from again 20 years later in a Jim Gordon channeling at John's ranch in Tucson, and Pierre Goulan); we have a list that John made of all five of his guides; we have a note from his brother Walter; and we have both a note and a Spirit photo (via Charlie Swann) of John's ancestor Johanna Bunz Fetzer. A drawing of this Spirit photo was used for the cover page of *One Man's Family*, which was printed at the end of 1964 (and now we see why both Lillian Johnson and Charlie Swann were acknowledged in the book).

By the way, this is also the session that Chief Sitting Bull evidently came forward and asked John why he traded his star pitcher Jim Bunning. In his February 9, 1984 interview with Thinnes and Averitt, John said, "Shortly after we traded Jim Bunning to Philadelphia (1964) I was down there ... Sitting Bull materialized right before me and said, 'John, why you trade Jim Bunning? Don't you know that be bad deal?' This was shortly after it happened—and it WAS a bad deal—it turned out to be an awful deal. We gave away a 20 game winner."

July 31, 1964: hotel registry, with John's signature is near the top of the page.

### Camp Chesterfield hotel ledger, 1961-1965

page389

View Description

View Image & Text

Print

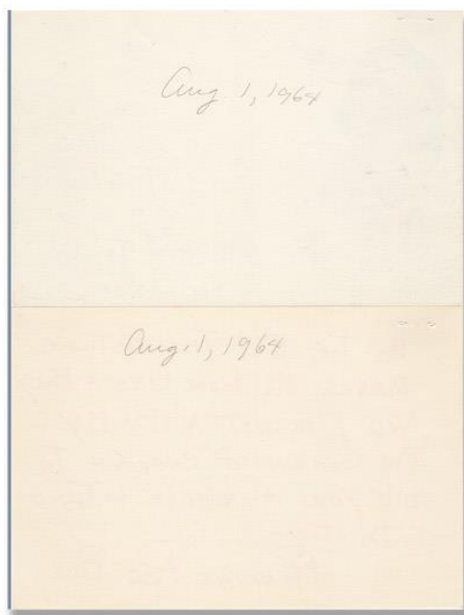
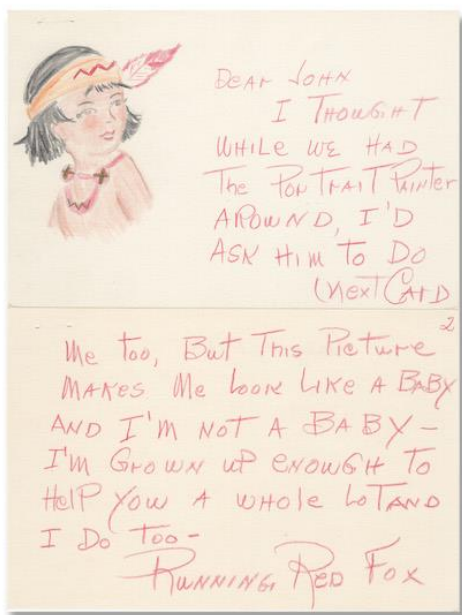
Image Text Text Search...

389

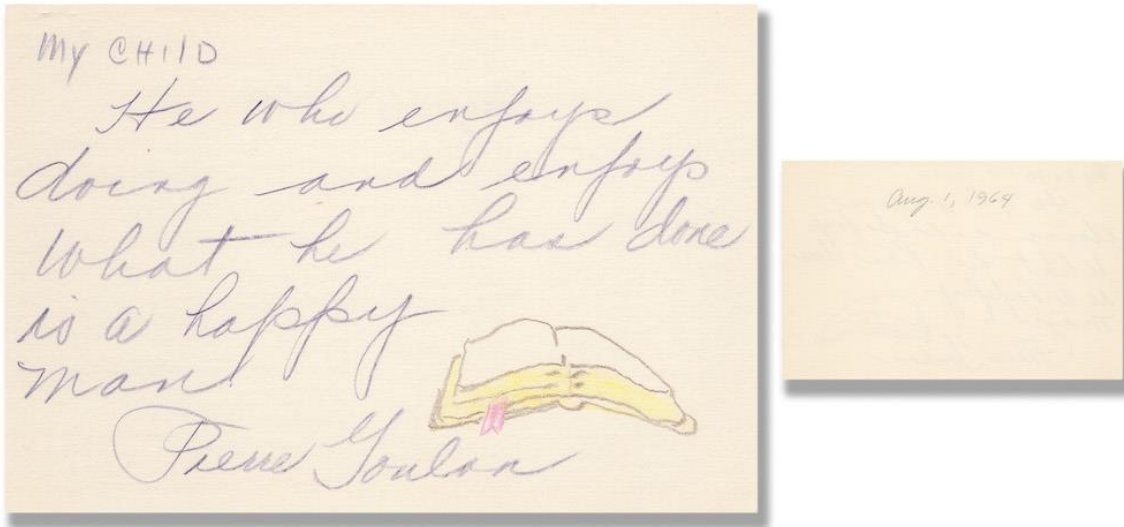
July 30

121	Mrs. & Miss Mary Timline Canton, O.	6.00
SF 91	Rev. Harold S. W. Wick Kempton, Ill.	2.50
117	John E. Fether Kalamazoo Mich.	15.00
136	Mrs. & Mrs. Gary Dooley & Family - Cleveland Ohio	Did not stay.
SF 75	Gleanor H. Marsh - Kalamazoo, Mich.	7.50
SF 55	Helen E. Gosard Indpls. Ind.	77.50
SF 2	Helen Winkelman Toledo Ohio	2.50
6	Catherine S. Zocher Toledo O.	2.50
10	Hazel Henty Toledo, Ohio	2.50
15	Verna Dubset Toledo Ohio	2.50
128	Mrs. Myrtle G. May Bloomington, Ind.	30.00
SF 11	Mrs. M. M. M.	

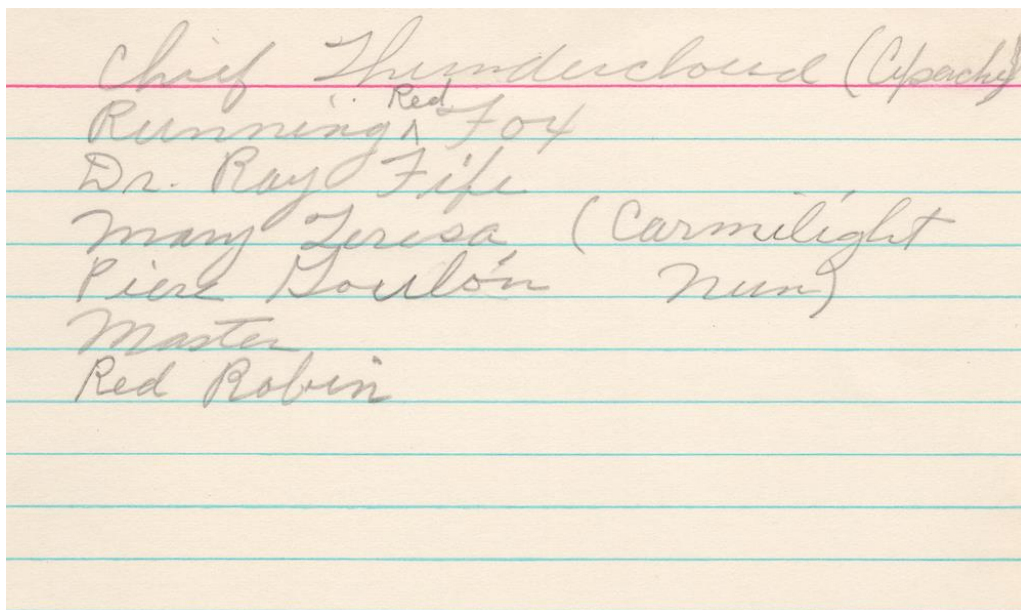
August 1, 1964: both sides of a Spirit note (via Lillian Johnson) plus a color-pencil sketch of John's Spirit guide, Running Red Fox.



August 1, 1964: Both sides of a note (via Lillian Johnson) from John's Spirit guide, Pierre Goulon.



In list made by John of his Spirit guides (as told to him at Camp Chesterfield), all but one of them “gave” him Spirit notes that were presented above. A note regarding the guides listed just above: According to Professor Todd Jay Leonard, Camp Chesterfield historian (as laid out by Leonard in a 2016 essay to the Memorial Trust), mediums generally present a client’s five Spirit guides to them (that is, in their philosophy each and every person has five guides; the medium merely presents them to their clients); the guides’ role is to assist the client as he or she goes through life, etc.



These five guides correspond to John's listed guides in the note card above, as follows:



(i.) a Native American, or Indian, Protector who stands directly in front of the person. In John's case, this would have been Chief Thundercloud.

(ii.) a Joy Guide, who stays around the person's legs. In John's case, this would have been Running Red Fox (it is interesting to note that years later, circa 1984, "Running Red Fox" turned up in a channeling Jim Gordon did for John at John's ranch in Tucson; in this channeling the topic was the potential future use of the ranch property by the Institute or by Inner Light Ministries. Had John told Jim Gordon of a guide from Camp Chesterfield named Running Red Fox? ... it's unlikely.)

(iii.) a Doctor-Teacher, who maintains a presence on the person's right side. In John's case, this would have been Dr. Ray Fife.

(iv.) the fourth on John's list is a guide with no specified "job" or "position" (according to Todd Leonard's nomenclature), named Sister Mary Teresa, a Carmelite nun.

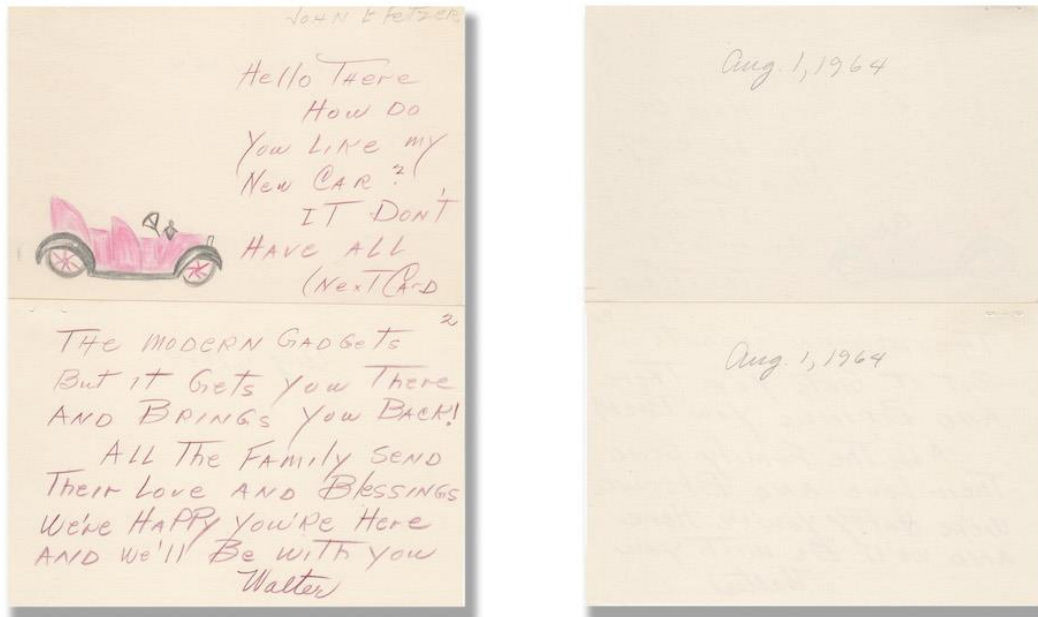
(v.) a Chemist, who stays on the person's left side. In John's case, this evidently would have been Pierre Golan.

(vi.) a Master-Teacher, who is behind the person. In John's case, he listed this guide as "Master." On a note card from Lillian Dee Johnson, this guide called himself "Your Teacher."

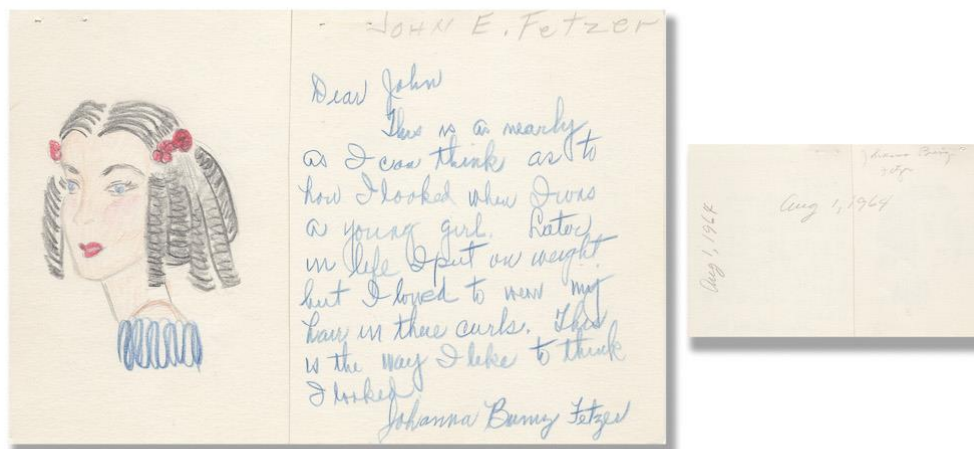
(vii.) there is another Joy Guide, named Red Robin. There was most certainly a card showing Red Robin that was drawn for John by Lillian Dee Johnson, because a painting was made of Red Robin by Rhea Fetzner's friend Elaine Journe; for years this painting was on the wall behind the desk of Carolyn Dailey, John's secretary.

In this report we have presented note cards (via Lillian Dee Johnson) on all these guides except Sister Mary Teresa and Red Robin.

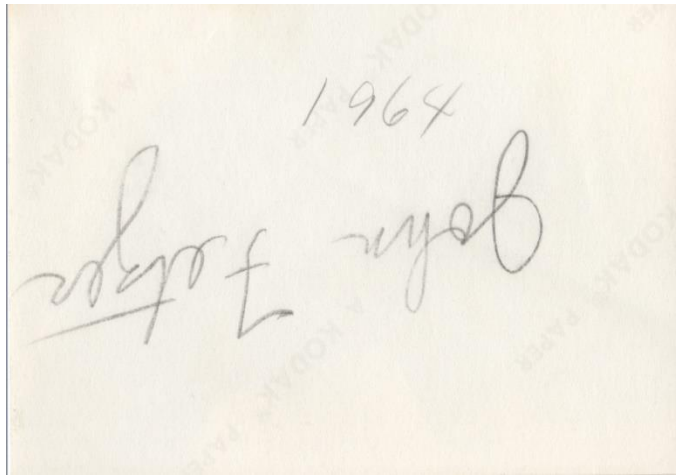
August 1, 1964: A Spirit note (via Lillian Johnson) from John's brother Walter.



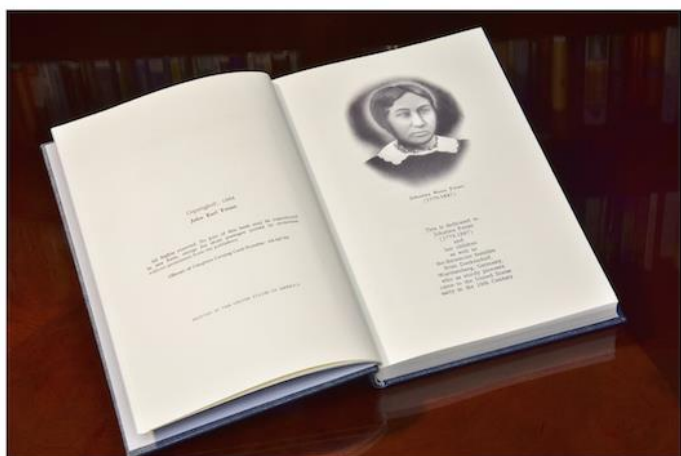
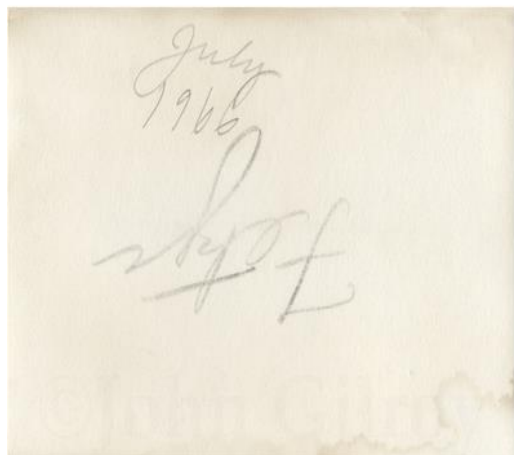
August 1, 1964: Here we have both a note (via Lillian Dee Johnson) from Johanna Bunz Fetzer including a color-pencil sketch of her, and a sheet of Spirit photos with Johanna Bunz Fetzer's face on it. John gave the photo to Rhea's artist friend Elaine Journet who made a sketch of it that was used on the cover page of *The Men from Wengen* (there is another Spirit photo of Johanna on a 1966 Spirit photo that is a more clear face, so it is the 1966 photo that I used recently in a PowerPoint presentation on the cover page of "America's Agony" as you'll see a little later in this report).



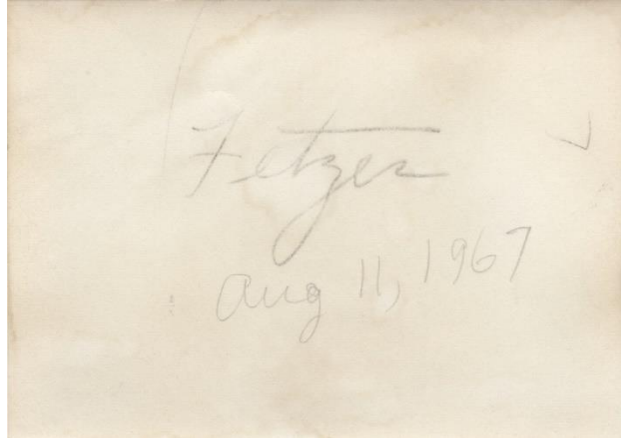
1964: Spirit photo (courtesy of Charlie Swann) with Johanna Bunz Fetzer included (the top right face in the photo, a drawing of which was used on the cover page of *One Man's Family*). This photo, plus Lillian Johnson's color-pencil sketch above, are why the two are acknowledged in *One Man's Family* (printed at the end of 1964) as follows: "MRS. LILLIAN JOHNSON of Bradenton, Florida, and MR. CHARLES SWANN of Anderson, Indiana, for lending their good offices in securing the drawing and picture of Johanna Bunz Fetzer (1779-1847)."



July 1966: another Spirit photo was produced via Charlie Swann, which again has a clear photo of Johanna Bunz Fetzer on it. Because of its clarity, I used this Spirit photo (not the 1964 one) in my 2013 PowerPoint on the use of Spirit photos in John's genealogy books.

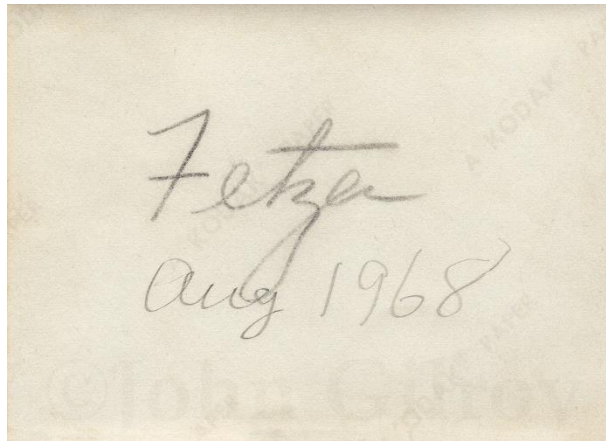


August 8, 1967: A Spirit photo (both sides) produced by Charlie Swann (poor in quality).

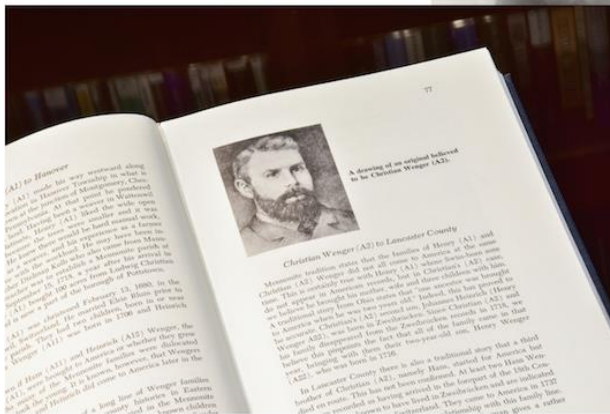




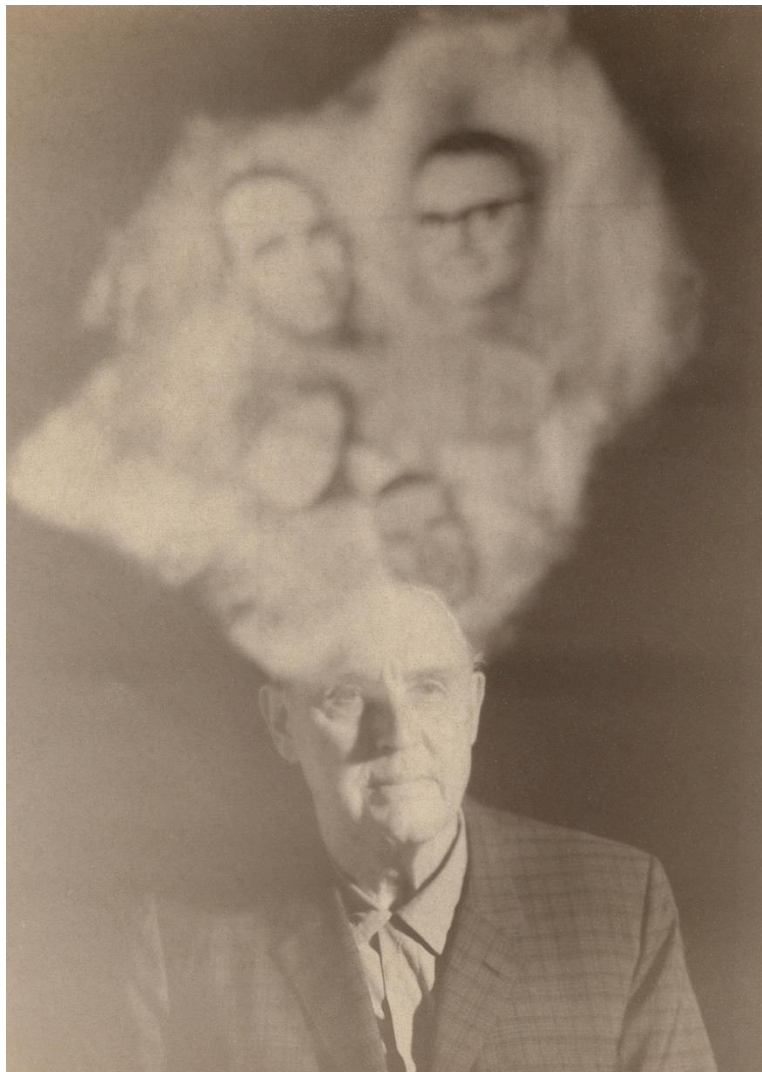
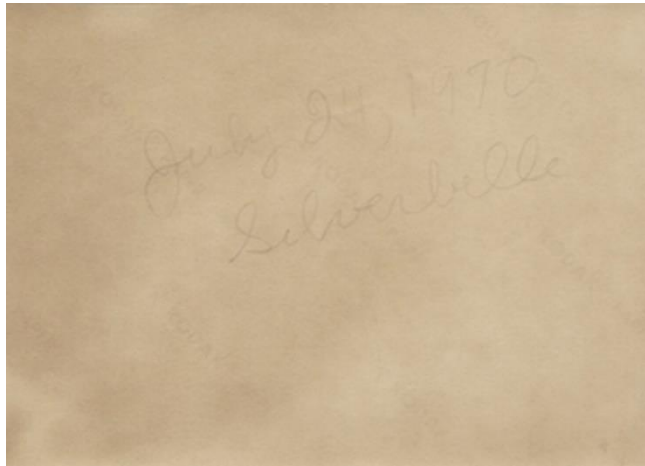
August 1968: another Spirit photo (both sides) produced by Charlie Swann, including Christian Wenger in the middle of the photo (a sketch was made of the photo by Elaine Journet and used in *The Men From Wengen*, as I show a little later in this report).



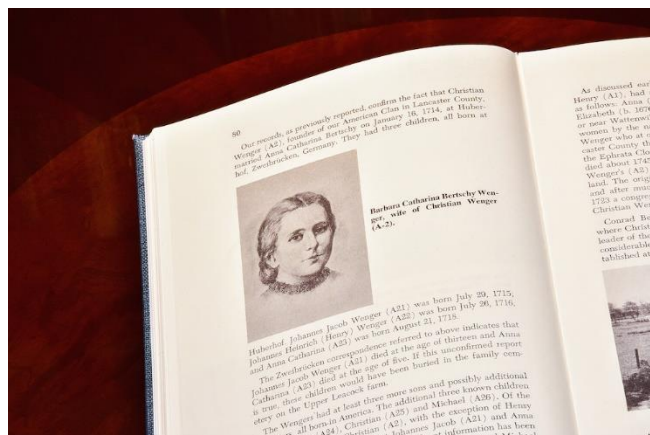
August 14, 1969: A Spirit photo produced by Charlie Swan which includes a face, a sketch of which was used as Christian Wenger in *The Men From Wengen*.



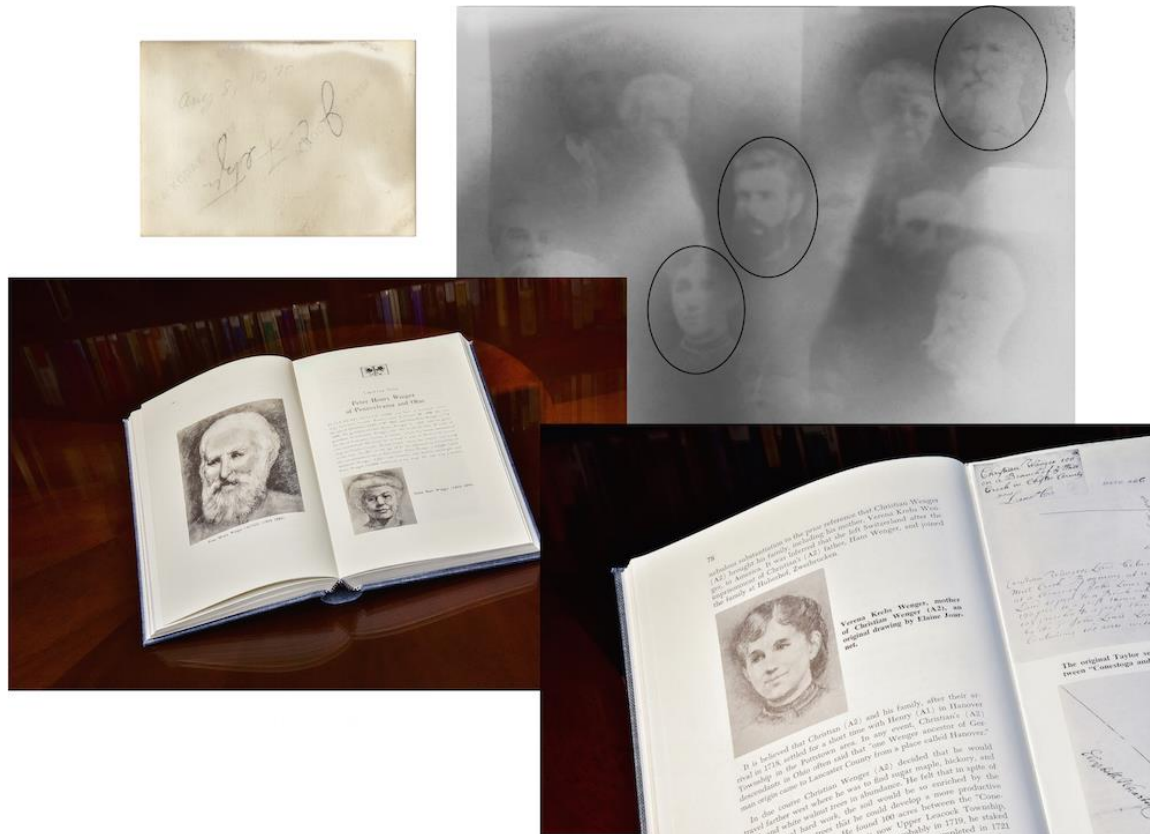
July 24, 1970: this Spirit photo (both sides shown) is of the style we saw in the Hett Museum at Camp Chesterfield in August 2015, where Charlie Swann includes the subject (in this case, John) in the photo as well, with his head surrounded by his “visitors.”



August 8, 1970: A Spirit photo via Charlie Swann. One face was sketched and used in *The Men From Wengen* as Barbara Wenger.



August 8, 1970: A second Spirit photo via Charlie Swann. Three faces were sketched and used in *The Men From Wengen* as Verena Krebs Wenger, Anna Barr Wenter, and Peter Henry Winger.



In the interview John Fetzer did on February 9, 1984 with Thinnies and Averitt, John talked about the Spirit photo process and its use by him in *The Men From Wengen*. He opened the book and said:

I'm looking at a picture here on Page 77, where all we say is, "a drawing of an original, believed to be Christian Wenger," who was my ancestor ... and that picture was received from ... here's another one, "Verena Wenger, mother of Christian Wenger, drawing taken from original. Barbara, wife of Christian," and "John Henry Wenger" also—that's the end of the line—there were four. What do I say there? "Original drawing by Elaine Journey" [Journey]. Elaine Journey lived in New York State, upstate a little bit from New York City, and she did these drawings from smaller photographs that were obtained at Camp Chesterfield psychically. This medium would get people in a circle and they would stand around and hold [photographic] paper against their solar plexus, and after you'd go through the exercise, you'd get a picture. So I obtained these four pictures this way, and when they came through I was told who they were. That's why they're in there. You have to remember these pictures would be from the 16th century, long before photography. Yet these were all obtained through mediumship.



Question: So you got this in your own hand?

John: Yeah.

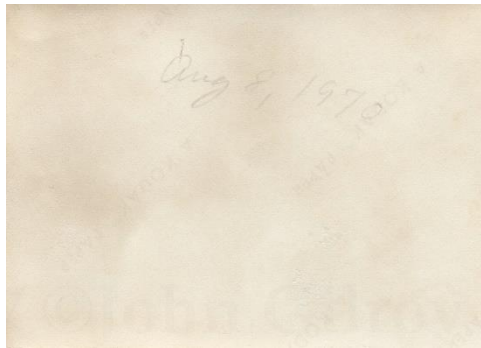
Question: Did everyone in the room get a different one?

John: Yeah.

Question: Everyone in the room had the person tell them who it was?

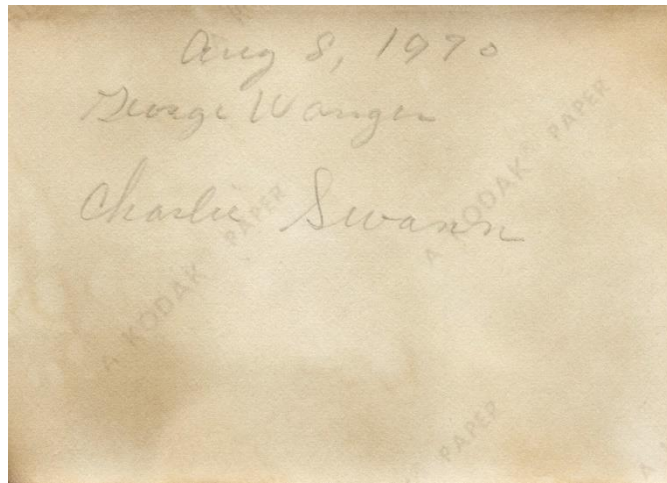
John: For the most part, most everyone in there got pictures of loved ones they could recognize of people already on the other side. Someone would say, "Oh, I got a picture of my cousin." "Oh, this is my mother," or "father." But I was asking for pictures that were long since gone, and I went in and asked for a picture of Christian Wenger and this is what I got. And then I asked for his mother and got this one.

August 8, 1970: a third Spirit photo (both sides shown) produced by Charlie Swann, which includes the faces once again used in *The Men From Wengen* as Christian, Anna and Peter Wenger/Winger.

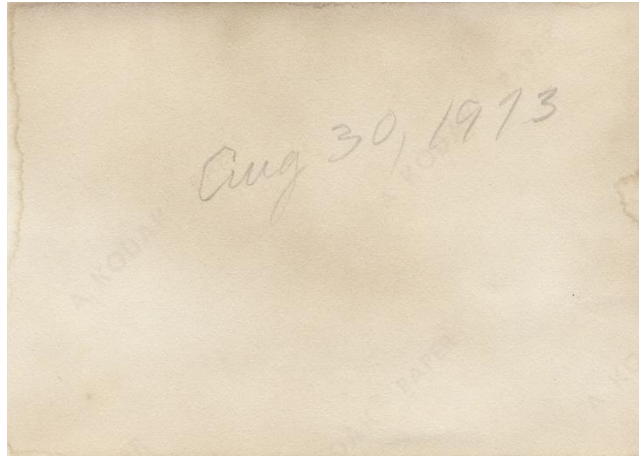


August 8, 1970: a fourth Spirit photo (both sides shown) produced by Charlie Swann. On the back Charlie Swann's name is written. George Wenger's name is written on the back as well, but we

don't have a corresponding face in *The Men From Wengen* for him. On the photo is the face used for Verena Wenger.

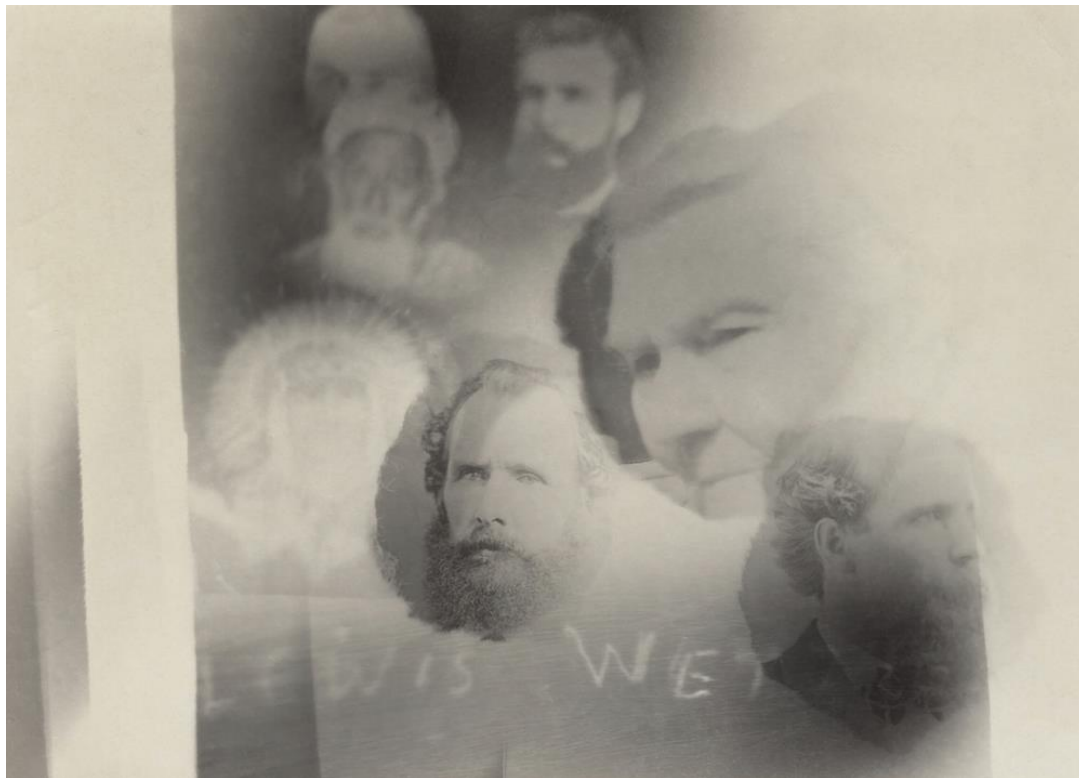
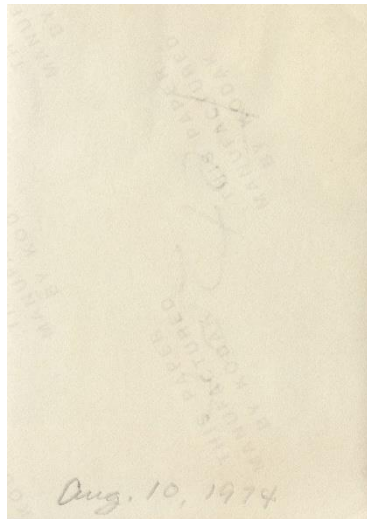


August 30, 1973: one Spirit photo was produced for John by Charlie Swann, but the quality is poor (blurry). Here are both sides of the photo.



August. 10, 1974: This is the final set of artifacts we have from Camp Chesterfield. John came home with both a Spirit photo, courtesy of Charlie Swann (with a face on it that was used in *The Men From Wengen* as Christian Wenger), and also a note via Lillian Dee Johnson of the only message we have from John's father (who died in 1903 when John was two), and a "Hi" from his mom as well.

August. 10, 1974: Spirit Photo via Charlie Swann (both sides), with a face on it (top-middle) that was used in *The Men From Wengen* as Christian Wenger).



1974: a two-sided note to John (via Lillian Dee Johnson) from John's father, including a sketch of a car. And a quick "hi" from his mom is thrown in as well.



MY SON  
YOU HAVE DONE  
WELL AND I AM  
PROUD OF YOU -  
WE NEVER KNOW  
WHAT LIFE HAS IN  
STORE FOR US - BUT  
FOR A QUIRK OF FATE,  
THE WORLD'S GREATEST AUTO-  
MOBILE MIGHT HAVE  
BEEN "THE FETZER"!  
YOUR FATHER  
John Fetzer

*My son  
you have done  
well and I am  
proud of you -  
we never know  
what life has in  
store for us - but  
for a quirk of fate,  
the world's greatest auto-  
mobile might have  
been "The Fetzer"!  
your father  
John Fetzer*